Import of Crude Oil, Petrol and Diesel

1364. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of crude oil, petrol and diesel imported during 1995-96 and 1996-97, upto 31st January, 1997;

(b) the projection of such imports in 1997-98;

(c) whether there is any prospect for holding prices steady in the domestic market;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the mechanism to calibrate domestic oil prices in relation to prices of imported oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Import of curde oil, petrol and diesel are as under:—

(Qty: Million Tonne Value : Rs. Crores)

	1995-96*	1996-97*
Crude oil		28.377
Qty	27.342	15672
Value	11517	
MS (Petrol)		
Qty	0.435	0.267
value	282	200
HSD (Diesel)		
Qty	12.852	10.696
Value	7761	7977

* : Provisional.

(b) Import of crude oil and petroleum products for 1997-98 would depend on over-all consumption & indigenous production of crude oil and petroleum products.

(c) to (e) The prices of petroleum products are administered by the Government through the oil pool account mechanism. The oil pool accounts are supposed to be self balancing. However, the pool account has been in deficit and the cumulative outstandings of the oil companies are estimated to be Rs. 15,500 crores as on 31.3.97. The position of the oil pool account is monitored on a continuous basis and Government takes necessary steps to contain the deficit, from time to time.

Petrol/Diesel outlets in Andhra Pradesh

1365. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had fixed any targets for opening of petrol and diesel outlets in Andhra Pradesh in 1996-97;

(b) if so, the district-wise details of those targets;

(c) whether it is a fact that adequate number of outlets are not available in the State; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to open more diesel/petrol outlets in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (d) 1263 retail outlet dealerships were in operation in Andhra Pradesh as on 1.10. 1996. In addition to the above, 80 retail outlet dealerships have been included in the retail outlet marketing plan 1993-96 and 19 retail outlet dealerships have been proposed for Andhra Pradesh in the draft retail outlet Marketing Plan 1996-97. These are sufficient to cater to the present requirement of the consumers of the State.

Dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism in the Oil Sector

1366. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to dismantle the administered pricing mechanism in a phased manner;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have formulated any plans to protect the interests of public sector oil refineries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?